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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

June 14, 2010

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554-0005

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I write today to request that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) consider the needs of my constituents in Gila and Pinal Counties, as the FCC continues the adjudication process regarding WT Docket No. 09-104.

Both Gila and Pinal Counties contain some of Arizona's most sparsely populated areas. Ensuring access to both fixed and mobile telecommunications has been and continues to be a challenge. Both counties have been hit hard by the recession and must contend with critical public safety issues on a daily basis. In 2002, thousands of acres in Gila County were destroyed in the massive Rodeo-Chediski Fire. With reliable fixed and mobile telecommunications networks in place, fire departments, police officers and area residents would be in a better position to prevent and fight the devastating effects of these annual wild fires.

In addition to wild fires, public safety officers in Pinal County must contend with a high volume of drug trafficking and drug trafficking related crime that has led the Office of National Drug Control Policy to designate the county as a High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Seamless communication is essential to effectively ending the production, manufacture, transportation, and distribution of illegal drugs. Without the necessary telecommunications infrastructure in place, Pinal County will continue to encounter difficulties in fighting the serious drug trafficking problems that also harmfully impact other communities in the Southwest.

These growing economic development and public safety issues make ensuring reliable access to telecommunications networks even more urgent. Over the past year, I have worked with the FCC, NTIA and RUS to bring to these areas the telecommunications services Americans in urban and suburban areas have been able to access for years.

AT&T is ready to deploy \$400 million worth of equipment that will improve telecommunications access in Gila and Pinal Counties. Unfortunately, AT&T's expansion of infrastructure to benefit Gila and Pinal cannot begin until the FCC has submitted a decision regarding Adtel's presence in Arizona. It is my understanding that the FCC is close to issuing this decision and I simply wanted to illustrate the challenges my constituents continue to face while this situation remains unresolved and AT&T is unable to install and activate deployable infrastructure.

Sincerely,


Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 5, 2010

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
1123 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter urging prompt approval of AT&T's acquisition from Verizon Wireless of FCC licenses and authorizations associated with 79 markets. These authorizations are being divested by Verizon Wireless in connection with its acquisition of ALLTEL Corporation. As you note, many of the authorizations at issue in this proceeding concern wireless operations in rural areas.

On June 22, 2010, the Commission adopted a *Memorandum Opinion and Order* approving the transaction with conditions. To ensure that approval of this transaction serves the public interest, the Commission adopted several conditions, including conditions relating to roaming, preservation of service on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and a commitment by AT&T to divest 15 megahertz of spectrum in one Michigan market. The Commission expects that this transaction will benefit consumers, particularly throughout much of rural America, by giving them access to an array of additional service offerings.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski